

The International Women of Courage Award

March 5, 2008

In honor of the International Women's Day, Ambassador of the United States Marie Yovanovitch presented Cholpon Djakupova, a well-known human rights advocate, the U.S. Department of States' International Woman of Courage Award, for her



Ambassador Yovanovitch presents Cholpon Djakupova the Woman of Courage Award

outstanding work in, among other things, protecting the rights of Uzbek refugees and detainees in 2005. Ambassador Yovanovitch stated, "Cholpon is an example of when one woman can make a huge difference in the protection of human rights of her fellow citizens."

The International Woman of Courage Award was inaugurated in 2007 by the Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice in honor of International Women's Day. The award is celebrating women of courage – women who have taken risks and and have made the world a better place for all. In the Kyrgyz Republic, last year

recipient was Bubusara Ryskulova, the head of the "Sezim" shelter, for her work with battered and abused women and children.

Ambassador Yovanovitch also hosted an exhibition of works and essays by female artists and students on the topic of "Realizing the Dream: Worldwide Equality for Women." Sixteen Works and essays were submitted for the exhibition, and six of them were selected by a committee for special mention.



"Realizing the Dream: Worldwide Equality for Women" exhibition opening